

**AMENDMENTS TO THE DRAWINGS:**

The attached sheet of drawings replaces the original sheet of Figures 1, 2 and 3.

Attachment: Replacement Sheet

Figures 1-3 labeled "Prior Art"

**REMARKS**

Applicants respectfully request reconsideration of the above-captioned application. In response to the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 3 and 10, the recitations thereof have been added to independent claims 1 and 8, respectively. Claims 2, 3 and 4, as well as claims 9, 10 and 11 have subsequently been cancelled. Claims 5-7 and 12-14 remain unamended.

In light of the incorporation of allowable subject matter into the independent claims, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 1, 5-8 and 12-14 are allowable for reasons of record. Notice to the effect is respectfully requested.

The Office Action also suggests that Figures 1-4 should be labeled by the legend "Prior Art" suggesting that they only illustrate what is old. Applicants respectfully submit that the Office likely intended to mention on Figure 1-3 insofar as Figure 4 is described as an embodiment of a connection method and a measurement method of the present invention as described at page 6, lines 6-10. Accordingly, Figures 1-3 have been labeled prior art and, in light of the above comments and the changes to the figures, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

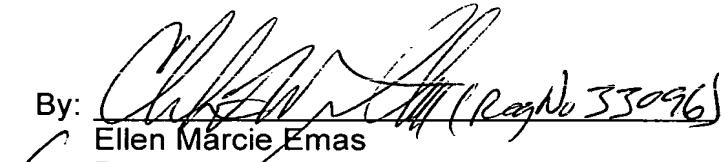
The rejections over prior art have been rendered moot by the above changes and therefore will not be further addressed.

In light of the foregoing, Applicants earnestly solicit issuance of a Notice of Allowance. Should any residual issues exist, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

BUCHANAN INGERSOLL PC

Date: October 19, 2005

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